



Fatum deems their first Pension Seminar a great success

On Friday, May 24, staff of Fatum Insurance, lead by Managing Director Diego Frankel welcomed over 200 banking and insurance professionals amongst concerned citizens to an afternoon seminar about pensions and retirement planning, which took place at the Renaissance Convention Center in Oranjestad. Anja Dongen, who was instrumental in arranging and promoting the event, reports that attendance was well beyond what was expected.

The seminar featured a number of expert lecturers on all aspects of financial security over sixty, and insuring a comfortable retirement. The first half of the sessions presented Laurens Keessen of Keesen Actuaries on “Pensions in Practice,” Martin Eekhof of KPMG tax and Legal Services will speak about “Pensions versus Insurance,” and Madel Jacopucci of Fatum will discuss “Women and Pensions.”

After a short break, Hans Ruiter of PricewaterhouseCoopers took to the podium with the topic will “Regulations of Pensions in Aruba,” as did Rolando van der Linde of the Dr. Horacio E. Oduber Hospital who explained “How to prepare to live on a Fixed Income.” Ramis Kolfin of Kolfin Leadership Training Program discussed “Balancing your time is the first Duty in Life.”

After the presentations, the speakers were joined by various leaders of commerce and labor for a panel discussion, which also entertained questions from the audience. Shirley Angela-Eisden moderated the question and answer session during which individuals raised a number of issues with Anselmo Pontilius, Director of the FTA, Edwin Roos, Marion Agunbero, and Martin Eekhof, who joined the discussion, along with the lecturers. A contingent from the RBTT Bank Aruba that attended the conference deemed it very informative to the public, with a number of issues addressed that professionals are aware are not given much thought. This was acknowledged by organizers as the purpose of the seminar, as so many individuals are not prepared, either financially or emotionally, for the time when they will be forced to stop working by local mandatory retirement regulations. An interesting issue raised by one questioner brought laughs from the audience, but is actually a serious issue for a number of women, at that was “how to collect their pension individual, separated from their partners pension?” In a final address, Diego Frankel expressed particular thanks to the many “stages” or college interns that are working with Fatum for organizing and conducting the seminar.

Madel Jacopucci of Fatum reports that the general response of the 250 attendees was very positive, as the seminar only addressed the issues, and was not a venue for selling insurance. Such a seminar had been staged successfully in Curacao, and will likely be repeated next year. She also reports that all questions submitted in writing on specially provided cards will be answered on their website, www.fatumpensioen.aw, as they could not be addressed in the time allotted time.

The afternoon ended with a relaxing social hour during which the speakers could address personal questions, and the gathering was entertained by a preview of “Trevia,” an original work by Aruban talent that will be staged at the Cas di Cultura during the weekend of June 1st to 3rd. For those that missed this interesting and informative afternoon, more information regarding preparing for retirement can be obtained by contacting Fatum Insurance at telephone # 582-1111 or visiting their website.